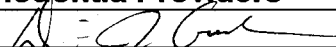




Bureau of TennCare

Policy Manual

Policy No: QC 05-001(rev 1)	
Subject: Orthodontia Providers	
Approval: 	Date: 6/20/2008

PURPOSE OF POLICY STATEMENT: The purpose of this policy is to state the TennCare position that orthodontic treatment will only be provided by Orthodontists and/or Pedodontists. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Dental Benefits Manager in consultation with the TennCare Dental Director. This policy supersedes TSOP 039.

POLICY: Under TennCare, orthodontic services must be prior approved and are limited to individuals, under age 21, diagnosed with a handicapping malocclusion or another developmental anomaly or injury resulting in severe malalignment or handicapping malocclusion of teeth, or following repair of an enrollee's cleft palate. Orthodontic treatment will not be authorized for cosmetic purposes. Orthodontic treatment will be paid for by TennCare only as long as the individual remains eligible for TennCare. If the orthodontic treatment is approved prior to the enrollee's attaining 20 1/2 and initiated prior to the enrollee's attaining 21 years of age, such treatment may continue as long as the enrollee remains eligible for TennCare.

The educational requirements of formal orthodontic training are demanding and include advanced knowledge in biology, behavioral and general sciences. Orthodontists must complete undergraduate requirements, graduate from dental school and have a minimum of two (2) years of academic orthodontic specialty training. Most Pedodontists, likewise, have additional orthodontic specialty training specific to children in their post graduate dental programs.

It is the policy of the Bureau of TennCare that, barring extenuating circumstances, only Orthodontists and Pedodontists who have received specialty training in orthodontics as part of their core curriculum, provide orthodontic treatment to TennCare enrollees. In those instances where there is a lack of orthodontic service availability because no such specialists practice in the service area within the Terms and Conditions for access

requirements, then General Dentists, who are able to document that they have received orthodontic training from an ADA accredited orthodontic program and who are able to demonstrate proficiency in successfully treating orthodontic patients, may be considered to deliver the treatment.

This policy ensures that if specialty networks are adequate, then only the most qualified dental providers are providing orthodontic care to TennCare enrollees and that determinations to use a General dentist will be made on a case by case basis by the Dental Benefits Manager in conjunction with the TennCare Dental Director.

The legality of this policy has been supported by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Latimer v. Robinson, et al* dated June 21, 2005.

OFFICES OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Dental Director, Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Dental Benefits Management contractor

REFERENCES:

[TennCare Rules 1200-13-13-.04\(6\)](#) and [1200-13-14-.04\(6\)](#) Covered Services

[TennCare Rules 1200-13-13-.10](#) and [1200-13-14-.10](#) Exclusions

[Doral Dental Provider Agreement Section 7\(b\)](#)

[DBM/State Contract \(2005\) Sections A.1.2.2; A.15.2; A.15.4](#)

[MCO Contractor Risk Agreement Sections 2-3.a. & 2-3.b.](#)

KL